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SIPDIS

FOR SCA AND NEA/SCA/EX

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AMGMT](#) [AFIN](#) [KDEM](#) [BG](#)

SUBJECT: ELECTIONS REPORTING AND ANALYSIS: ADDITIONAL
FUNDING MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

REF: A. 08 STATE 134958

[1](#)B. 08 DHAKA 1234

[1](#)C. 08 DHAKA 1286

[1](#)D. 08 DHAKA 1298

[1](#)E. 08 DHAKA 1321

[1](#)F. 08 DHAKA 1325

[1](#)G. 08 DHAKA 1326

[1](#)H. 08 DHAKA 1334

[1](#)I. 08 DHAKA 1336

[1](#)J. 08 DHAKA 1337

[1](#)K. 08 DHAKA 1344

[1](#)1. Post appreciates Department kudos as communicated Ref A, particularly in relation to Embassy Dhaka's pre-election reporting (Refs B thru K).

[1](#)2. Ref A notes: "Post's analysis of the electoral dynamics in all the far-flung regions of Bangladesh was most impressive and helpful. (...) Through this reporting, even from a vantage point that was 8,000 miles distant, we were able to gain a nuanced and detailed understanding of what was happening in Bangladesh and what the people were actually thinking."

[1](#)3. We would not have been able to carry out our ambitious reporting and elections monitoring plan were it not for the additional resources NEA/SCA/EX provided for in-country travel and TDY support.

[1](#)4. With the USD 30,000 the Bureau provided, we were able to send seven Pol/Econ and TDY officers, with LES support, on 12 pre-elections reporting trips between the end of November and election day itself. Together, these trips covered all of Bangladesh's six divisions and more than half of its 64 voting districts. While visiting a wide range of sometimes remote bellwether constituencies within those districts, Embosfs were able to meet with multiple candidates from across the political spectrum on their home ground and obtain grassroots feedback from both civil society representatives and regular voters.

[1](#)5. Further, on election day itself, we were able to send Embassy observer teams - with interagency representation and LES support - to each of Bangladesh's six divisions. Using information and relationships established during pre-election travel, the teams planned their observation activities effectively and were able to visit an average of six polling centers each on election day. They were in constant contact with international and domestic observers on the ground and provided Embassy Dhaka with real-time sitreps from the opening of polls through the end of the vote-counting process.

[1](#)6. Our ten pre-election reporting cables (Refs B thru K) and the real-time input from Embassy observers on election day helped us and Washington gain a much better understanding of what was going on throughout the country in advance of the election and afterwards. We were thus able to make sense of the unexpected results. Post thanks NEA/SCA/EX for its

foresight in approving the additional funding.
MORIARTY